恋は光

koi ha hikari

akieda

1

秋★枝

#001
SPARKLES

恋は光

koi ha hikari

恋は光 ✦ 1

LIKE SO MANY JEWELS.

SPARKLING.

SPARKLING.

WOMEN IN LOVE SHINE.

WELL...

...

I CAN LITERALLY SEE IT.

AND, THAT LIGHT?

I'M NOT MAKING IT UP, IT IS THE HONEST TRUTH.

PLEASE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY.

SENSEI, YOU'RE AN INTERESTING GUY.

I ALREADY KNEW THIS, BUT

TO SAY THAT NEARLY EVERY WOMAN IN THIS HALL AT THE MOMENT

IS CURRENTLY EMITTING SAID LIGHT WOULD NOT BE AN EXAGGERATION.

REALLY NOW.

SO IT DOES SEEM LIKE A GOOD TIME FOR THAT.

AND THAT LONGISH VACATION IS OVER.

THEY'RE USED TO CAMPUS LIFE NOW,

WELL, TRUE,

I HAD NO IDEA.

IT SEEMS MAY IS MATING SEASON FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS...

SPARKLES OVER THERE,

SPARKLES OVER HERE,

NOT A ONE.

IS THERE ANYONE SPARKLING FOR YOU?

SO?

...

WHY YOU CAN SEE THAT LIGHT.

I MEAN,

HUH?

YEAH.

HE WAS IN OUR CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

DO YOU REMEMBER HIROSHI NAKATA?

HM?

I WONDER WHY.

HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHY.

NEITHER DO I.

...UH-HUH.

...UH-HUH.

JUST BY LOOKING AT THEIR LEGS?

HE COULD TELL WHICH GIRLS HAVE ***DONE*** IT, AND WHICH HAVEN'T,

REMEMBER HOW HE SAID,

IF *YOURS* IS REAL,

I FEEL LIKE IT COULD ACTUALLY HAVE SOME PRACTICAL USES.

FOR EXAMPLE?

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

BETWEEN NAKATA'S THING AND YOUR THING, THOUGH.

I FEEL LIKE THERE IS A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE

FOR EXAMPLE...

UH...

FOR EXAMPLE?

KITA-SHIRO.

YOU...

SEE? SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

TAKE THAT INFO TO WHOEVER WANTS IT,

AND THEN WHEN ONE OF THEM STARTS CHEATING,

AND SELL IT.

YOU COULD PICK OUT A FEW MARRIED COUPLES TO KEEP AN EYE ON,

AW, YOU'RE SO SWEET.

BUT, KIND OF A SCUMBAG.

WHY, THANK YOU.

...'RE PRETTY SMART.

GO ON...

THE TRIGGER, WAS THE SPRING RAIN.

WELL...

IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'VE HAD GOING FOR A PRETTY LONG TIME.

SO, WHY BRING THIS UP NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I ALWAYS KNEW BEFOREHAND THAT IT WOULDN'T BE FOR ME, SO I WAS EMOTIONALLY PREPARED FOR IT.

NO MATTER HOW BRIGHTLY THE WOMAN OF THE WORLD SHINED,

BE IT SUMMER IN JULY, CHRISTMAS IN DECEMBER, VALENTINE'S IN FEBRUARY,

OR GRADUATION AND ORIENTATION IN MARCH AND APRIL,

THE CAMPUS, DECORATED WITH THE SIGHTS AND SMELLS OF SPRING.

AND A SUDDEN MAY SHOWER.

AS I MENTIONED,

THE COLLEGE GIRLS WERE SPARKLING, SHINING.

BUT,

WHO WOULD HAVE EXPECTED MAY?

THEIR SPARKLING LIGHTS REFLECTING IN THE RAIN,

BEAUTIFUL, LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A DREAM,

THOSE COLLEGE GIRLS, WET FROM THE RAIN, SMELLED SO SWEET.

I'LL BET THAT WAS PRETTY PAINFUL...

SPARKLING...

GULP

ALL, THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS WITH SOME-ONE ELSE,

AND THOSE SWEET-SMELLING WOMEN,

SPARKLING, SPARKLING,

SPARKLING, SPARKLING,

SOME SORT OF "DESTINED LOVER" THING!

AND I BET THAT ABILITY OF YOURS IS SO YOU CAN FIND THAT PERSON!

WOW, THAT WAS EMBARRASSING TO SAY OUT LOUD.

ONE DAY SOMEONE WILL SPARKLE FOR YOU,

uhh

ER... WELL, HEY!

...

UH,

I COULD ALWAYS BE WRONG THOUGH!

SO DON'T BLAME ME IF IT'S NOT TRUE!

I SEE!

I GUESS YOU *COULD* LOOK AT THAT WAY...

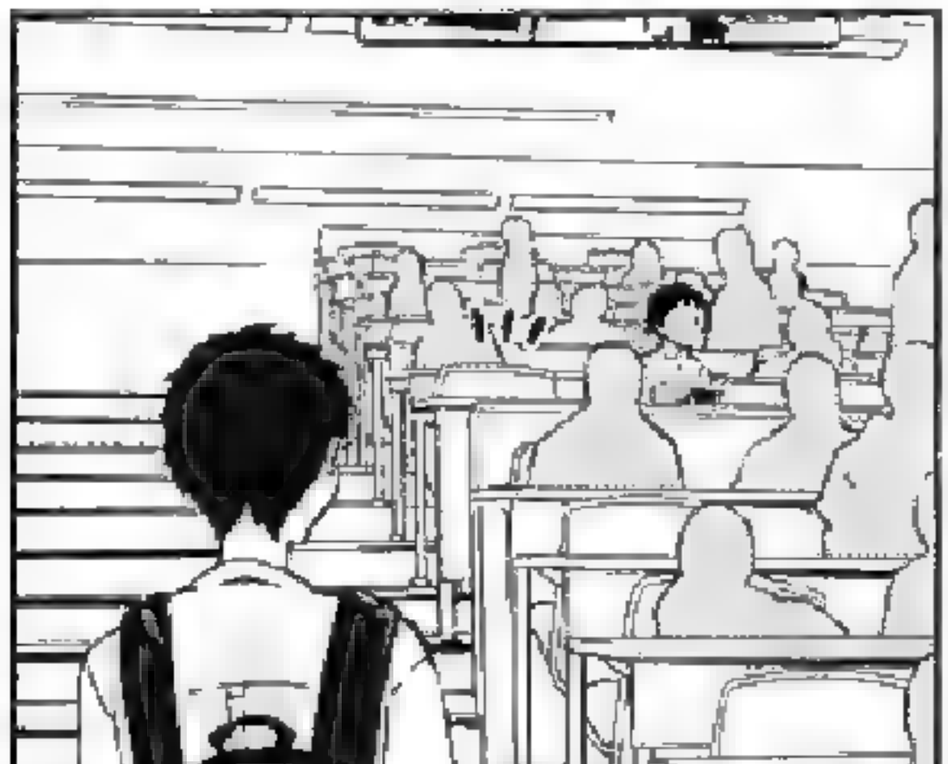
ROOM 33 IN THE COMMON BUILDING.

I'm pretty sure

WHAT ROOM IS OUR NEXT CLASS IN AGAIN?

ANYWAY, LOOK AT THE TIME.

AW...
MOST OF THE SEATS IN THE BACK ARE ALREADY TAKEN.
WE WERE TOO LATE...



YEAH.
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP.

AH,

IF I TAKE THIS SEAT?

IS IT ALRIGHT,

EXCUSE ME,

PLEASE, FEEL FREE.

YES?

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHAT THAT IS YOU'RE READING?

IT'S "ROMAN DE LA ROSE".

UH...

PERSONALLY,

I'M FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO RELATE TO, AND SO I'M HAVING SOME TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING IT WELL.

THAT'S CERTAINLY A DIFFICULT QUESTION.

...HM?

IS IT INTERESTING?

SO THEN,

WHY EXACTLY ARE YOU STILL READING IT?

I AM NOT PARTICULARLY ENJOYING IT.

I SUPPOSE THAT, TO BE HONEST,

you seemed pretty engrossed a minute ago

I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT

WHAT PEOPLE CALL "LOVE".

BRRRRRRW

BRRRRRRW

...IS THAT SO.

BRRRRRRW

School bell

I BEGAN TO DISTANCE MYSELF, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, FROM NOT ONLY THOSE GIRLS BUT ALSO FROM "LOVE" ITSELF.

ONCE I REALIZED THEY WERE BORN FROM THE GIRLS' FEELINGS OF LOVE,

AROUND THE TIME I ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I FIRST STARTED SEEING THESE LIGHTS

EVEN WITHOUT LOVING ANOTHER PERSON, I WAS HAPPY LOVING THE SKY, THE TREES, THE BLADES OF GRASS.

EVERY MORNING, EVERY DAY, EVERY NIGHT, BROUGHT A COMPLETELY NEW EXPERIENCE.

BUT STILL, I LIVED A FULFILLING LIFE.

NO ONE WAS SHINING FOR ME.

THE REASON WAS SIMPLE.

IS WHAT I TOLD MYSELF, AND SOMEHOW I KEPT MOVING FORWARD.

"I HAVE SO LITTLE TIME,

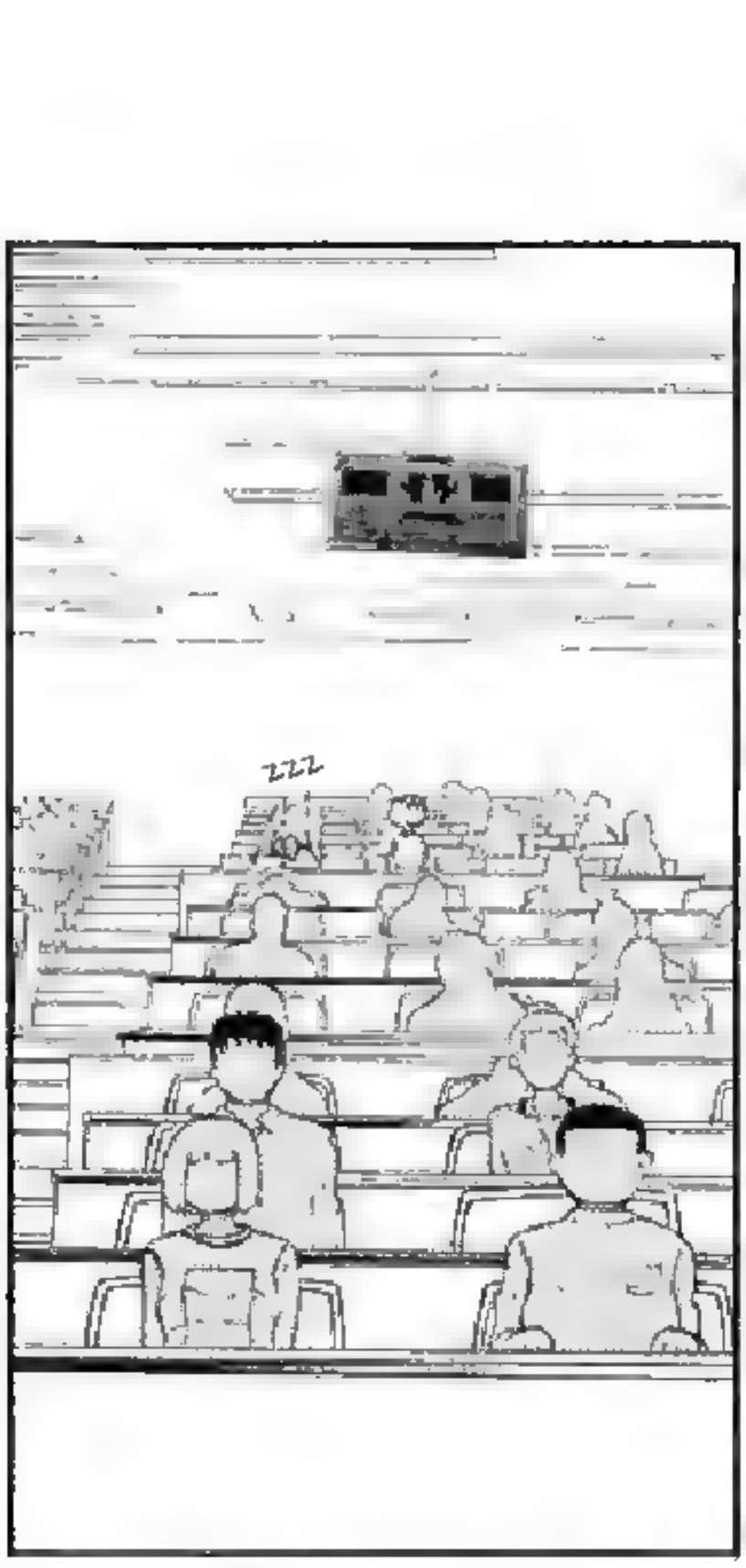
AND SO MUCH TO DO!"

"THERE'S NO ROOM IN MY LIFE FOR LOVE."

"WHAT PEOPLE CALL 'LOVE'."

"I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT"

IF THIS PERSON WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH ME...


ZZZ

CRAP!
ah!

tmp
...
ack

...
SENSEI?
WHAT'S UP?
were you asleep?

...
LET'S GO HOME.
SENSEI!

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED.

KITASHIRO.

SENSEI?

...

OOOH?

and?

and?

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.

SHINONOME, HUH?

SO, UH...

THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU FELL FOR, HUH.

WAIT,

WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?

WE'RE IN THE SAME DEPART-MENT.

HUMANITIES IN THE FACULTY OF LAW.

YOU KNOW HER?

SHUT UP.

WELL...

SHE IS PRETTY HOT...

THINK YOU STAND A CHANCE?

WELL, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE, FOR ONE.

for real

THAT *IS* STRANGE!

OH?

ALSO,

SHE'S KIND OF... STRANGE?

SEEMS LIKE SHE'S THE REAL THING.

UNLIKE YOUR FAUX-HERMIT ACT,

SCREW YOU TOO.

OR SO SHE SAYS.

SHE DOESN'T WATCH TV EITHER, AND ONLY USES A COMPUTER FOR SCHOOL,

HUH.

...

I CAN'T SAY I RECOMMEND HER.

ANYWAY,

SLURP

...

WHAT?

...

CAN'T HELP WHO YOU FALL FOR.

UH, WELL,

NOT THAT IT'S MY PLACE TO SAY ANYTHING.

Y'KNOW?

LIKE, "ISN'T THAT WHAT *I* WANT TO DO, TOO?"

I'M STILL STUCK ON WHAT SHE SAID.

OHH.

"I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE CALL 'LOVE'."

HM,

TO START,

I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER.

UH-HUH.

SO I WAS THINKING WE MIGHT GET ALONG PRETTY WELL.

...WELL,

SO,

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

uh, well

I SORT OF DOUBT THAT WOULD BE ANY HELP.

SO, HOW DID YOU AND I BECOME FRIENDS AGAIN?

RIGHT...

GOOD LUCK!

THAT'S VERY SURE, WHY NOT?

YOU.

pf

pf

OH FINE.

I'LL HELP TALK YOU UP TO HER, ALL SNEAKY-LIKE.

...THANKS.

BETWEEN SOMEONE YOU'VE KNOWN SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND SOMEONE YOU JUST MET IN COLLEGE.

THERE'S A PRETTY BIG DIFFERENCE, I THINK,

I-

I GUESS SO.

WHAT?!

BUT I COULD USE YOUR HELP.

ACTUALLY, I ALREADY THOUGHT UP A WAY TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH HER.

JEEZ, WHAT NOW?

ALSO...

I HAVE ONE OTHER FAVOR TO ASK.

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

SO, WHAT IS IT?

Cmon

Cmon

I GUESS I CAN ASK HER TO MEET WITH YOU.

IF SHE DOESN'T MIND,

WELL,

HUH?

COULD I ASK YOU TO INTRODUCE ME TO HER?

ドキドキ

I

YEAH.
I KNOW!
I WAS BEING SERIOUS.
snicker
snicker
YOU'RE AMAZING.
OH MAN.
SENSEI.
BUT WHY GO WITH SOMETHING SO ROUNDABOUT?
HECK, IF IT'S WITH SHINONOME, IT MIGHT EVEN WORK.
...
HRMPH
I'LL TELL YOU IF IT GOES WELL.
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S DO THIS!
TELL ME, TELL ME!
THAT'S NEWS TO ME! WORK ON WHO?!
WOAH, REALLY?
THIS IS THE ONLY METHOD I'M FAMILIAR WITH THAT I'VE SEEN WORK.

WEDNESDAY

N...

WELL...

EH... SO,

SHINO-NOME.

I'M SAIJOU.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

YES?

OHH!

"I WANT TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE CALL 'LOVE'."

WHAT I SAID?

HAS BEEN ON MY MIND THIS WHOLE TIME.

WHEN WE SPOKE ONCE BEFORE, WHAT YOU SAID THEN...

I WANT TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH YOU.

I FEEL LIKE...

THE TWO OF US

MIGHT HAVE A LOT IN COMMON.

IS WHY

YES.

IS...

THAT SO?

RIGHT, SO,

WHAT I WAS THINKING, WAS...

YOU DON'T OWN A CELL PHONE, CORRECT?

AND FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD,

...

YES, TRUE.

I DON'T RECALL SEEING YOU IN MANY OF MY CLASSES.

thinking about it

HOWEVER, WE'RE IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS,

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO AN EXCHANGE DIARY?

xchange tebook

LET'S!
YES,

CREDITS!!!!

TO AKI★EDA, THE AUTHOR AND ARTIST

MORE AKI★EDA WOOOOO

JAPANESE COLLEGES ARE ORDERED A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN THOSE IN THE WEST (OR AT LEAST IN THE US), WHICH IS WHY KITASHIRO'S LINE ABOUT "FACULTY OF LAW" MIGHT SOUND STRANGE. IT'S NOT REALLY A BIG DEAL THOUGH.

SCHOOLS IN JAPAN DO GRADUATION IN MARCH, AND START THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN APRIL.

"SENSEI" IS JUST HER NICKNAME FOR SAIJOU; WE'LL FIND OUT WHY LATER.

"...AND THAT LONGISH VACATION IS OVER..," REFERS TO GOLDEN WEEK, A SERIES OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS IN JAPAN THAT TAKES PLACE AT THE END OF APRIL/BEGINNING OF MAY. IT'S TECHNICALLY ONLY THREE ONE-DAY HOLIDAYS, BUT MOST PEOPLE GET A WHOLE WEEK OFF FOR IT ANYWAY.

IN (AMERICAN?) ENGLISH, THERE IS THE SAYING "APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS". IN JAPAN, THOSE "APRIL SHOWERS" ARE IN MAY.

UNLIKE LITERALLY EVERY OTHER ANIME/MANGA EVER, THE SCHOOL'S BELL DOES NOT GO "KIN KON KAN KON", IT GOES "BOWAAAAAAAAN", WHICH IS WHY THE AUTHOR PUT THAT "↑ SCHOOL BELL" NOTE THERE.

IT IS, IN FACT, STRANGE FOR A JAPANESE COLLEGE STUDENT TO NOT HAVE A CELL PHONE.